Madingley Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

Many of these stories were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014. They are supplemented by some selections 'From our Old Files' published in the Cambridge Independent Press and other notes.

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at bit.ly/CambsCollection

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get in touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the 1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2016

1897
At Cambridge Easter Sunday was celebrated in all the churches. Congregations were very large and most of the places of worship were tastefully decorated, white flowers largely predominating. On Monday a goodly number of people followed the Volunteers in their march to Madingley, others watched the Boys Brigade movements on the University Range. Amusements were provided by the sports on Fenners and the circus in the afternoon

1899 03 06
Some of the inner workings of parochial life in Madingley were laid bare and some astonishing revelations of the relations existing between the incumbent and some of his parishioners were made at a court held by the Chancellor of the diocese. The vicar applied for a faculty confirming certain alterations in the church. This was opposed by Col. H.W. Hurrell, owner of Madingley Hall who also presented a faculty to remove a stone altar which had been placed in the chancel.

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Madingley squire & priest, p3-4 *

1899 05 11
Madingley vicar, p2

1900 04 26
Madingley altar case, p4

1903 09 03
Two firewood dealers were charged with stealing a quantity of timber, the property of the Roses Timber Company. The company had purchased 53 trees on the Madingley Estate, amongst which were two elms; later they found that 17 feet had been cut from one of them, and ten feet from the other. Police discovered the timber on the defendants' premises in Beche Road, Cambridge. When questioned they said it had come from King's Hedges. They were each fined £3.

1907 03 22
Madingley vicarage narrowly escaped destruction by a fire of mysterious origin that broke out while the vicar and his household were at evening service and the house locked up. It is believed a cat may have knocked over a lamp. PC Jaggard was alerted but not being able to effect an entrance he proceeded to the church were the service was just concluding. The vicar and congregation hurried to the scene to find flames were bursting through the drawing-room windows. Twenty villagers set to work to extinguish the fire with water from an artesian well in the stable yard. Inside, the cat was found suffocated. 07 03 22a

1908 03 12
Cambridgeshire Motor-Cycle Club has been formed to organise club runs, hill climbs, speed judging and petrol consumption trials. It will also provide legal information and touring facilities. Officers include W. King, H.H. Harper, A.R. Marshall and Col. Harding of Madingley Hall. It is intended for motor-cycles – cycles and tri-cars, not car owners. 08 03 12d

1909 03 05
During military night operations around Cambridge residents were discomforted by the activity of an eight-inch howitzer entrenched in a capitally-constructed earth fort on the high ground of Madingley Hill. It was attacked by the Cambridge University officer Training Corps who found the rush uphill

on the double was too long and exhausting. There was the danger of troops arriving out of breath and in scattered formation being charged with the bayonet. So they marched across country, crossing fences and ditches in silence. After the roar of an explosion, symbolising the destruction of the howitzer they retired to Coton. 09 03 05

1909 07 23
Police band visit to Coton show – thrown off cart at Madingley hill – CWN 09 07 23

1910 05 13
On a certain day 49 years ago several undergraduates while walking along the Madingley Road were overtaken by a heavy rainstorm. They were not provided with any protection against such weather and there was every likelihood they would be thoroughly drenched. An old lady living in one of the brick-built cottages noticed their plight and they gladly took the opportunity to wait in her dwelling until the violence of the storm had abated. Before they left the kindly old dame insisted upon one of the young men accepting the loan of her umbrella. It was returned the next day with a substantial gift in recognition of her kindness. That undergraduate afterwards became King Edward VII 10 05 13h

1910 11 18
Madingley Hall was the scene of a very picturesque function when 220 guests dressed in costumes of the Tudor and Stuart period took part in a fancy dress ball to mark the completion of the restoration of the north front of this charming old Tudor mansion. It was here that his late Majesty King Edward VII resided when at Trinity. In his bedroom is a portrait of the young prince in his undergraduate's cap and gown which the King signed only two years ago. 10 11 18b

1912 09 13
Walter Barnes, carman employed by Mr Winter, furniture remover was driving two horses in single file drawing a lorry down Madingley Hill when a motor car passed him. The noise of the car frightened the horses and they set off in a mad career down the steep incline. Barnes made strenuous efforts to rein them in but they only became more frantic. On nearing the Coton corner the lorry overturned and he was thrown out. Mr J.A. Venn rushed Barnes to Addenbrooke's Hospital in his motor car, leaving his wife at the scene of the accident. 12 09 13b

1914 05 08
Another Death at "The Three Horse Shoes."—The death of Mrs. Marie Cornell at "The Three Horse Shoes," Madingley, on Thursday last, makes the third death at this house inside of three weeks. The late tenant and his wife (Mr. and Mrs. Henry Chapman) both died of pneumonia and pleurisy. The husband was taken ill on the Sunday before Easter and expired the Saturday before Easter Sunday; the wife was stricken down with the same complaint on the Saturday that her husband died, and passed away on the following Thursday; and now it is our sad duty to chronicle the deafen of Mrs. Chapman's aged mother, who passed away at the age of 77. – 1914 05 08 CIPof

1914 11 06
Belgians – Littleport, Burwell, Chatteris, Duxford, Comberton, Sawston, Elsworth, Fen Drayton, Swavesey, Fordham, West Wickham, Wicken, Gamlingay, Willingham, Madingley, Isleham, Landbeach, Linton, Lode, Oakington,

1916 93 29
Thomas Walter Harding, High Sheriff – of Madingley – profile – 16 03 29b

1916 09 13
Heroes all: photos – Wilson, Alsop, Runham, Sutherland, Mowlam, Brown, Fordham, Brown, Monk; three sons out of five of Madingley family Saxon killed – 16 09 13b

1918 07 31
Cambridgeshire Volunteer Regiment training camp at Madingley – 18 07 31c

1923 04 18
A Commission has been appointed by the Bishop of Ely to inquire into the desirability of uniting the beneficiaries of Madingley and Dry Drayton. They held a local inquiry when the question was fully considered. The congregation of Madingley was 50 in the morning and 60 in the evening. The Madingley churchwardens presented a petition bearing the signatory of 103 persons protesting and objecting to the two churches being united. Colonel Harding said, "I can tell you that as far as Madingley is concerned they would prefer that no union should take place"

1925 04 11
About 120 members of the 1st Cambridgeshire Regiment are spending the Easter weekend under canvas at Madingley. The Cambridge-St Neots road acted as part of the front line of a British force which was endeavouring to repel an invader marching on London. The Norfolk Brigade was ordered to take up position from Oakington to Comberton. The work was carried out under service conditions & proved exceptionally difficult on account of the wooded nature of the country in front

1926 07 24
Members of the 1st Battalion, Cambs. Regiment have been attending a voluntary camp at Madingley, situated at View Park and surrounded by sturdy trees, the main belt of which was responsible for saving the camp being blown down during a storm. One evening the Commanding Officer was approached by a private who announced he had been sent for the white-wash brush. He replied: "I supposed you want to paint the Last Post", then turned on his heels and sought the retirement of the officers' mess to conceal his mirth.

1927 03 26
The death of Col Thomas Walter Harding, the High Steward of Cambridge, will occasion widespread regret. He was a most agreeable person, blending a courtly dignity with a rare courtesy and kindness. He purchased the beautiful Madingley Hall in 1903 and two years later took up residence. He found time to bring out a romance entitled "Tales of Madingley" in 1912, which has been widely read. In 1901 he presented a jewelled badge for the use of the Mayors of Cambridge. The Mayoral chain was presented by his father in 1890.

1929 01 30
Cambridge Preservation Society wishes to prevent any repetition of the disfigurement of the country as has taken place around the Shelford Road. They felt that at all costs the pleasant road to Madingley and the view from the Hill should be secured. Finding the danger was acute they decided to direct whatever funds were available to this end. They have bought about 380 acres of land but built up a considerable debt that must be repaid.

1930 01 10
Extensive netting was carried out in the ponds at Madingley Hall; over 8,000 fish, mostly roach and rudd, were transferred in tanks to Newnham Mill Pool. The party, which included Mr Ambrose Harding and Horace Coulson arrived equipped with nets and tanks which strongly resembled dust-bins. The first haul was made across the bridge end of the pond and resulted in the capture of about 400 small roach which were taken to Cambridge by lorry. The next produced upwards of 2,000 fish, too many for the lorry so Mr Coulson took some in pails in his car. The third pond yielded a still finer catch

1931 12 18
The Ouse and Cam Fishery Board had failed to net the carp in ponds at Hauxton and Fenstanton as they had 'mudded' for the winter, but the drawing of lakes at Madingley and Longstowe Hall had yielded 15,000 fish, mostly roach and rudd. Several thousand gudgeon were also taken from Hinxton Mill and placed in the Granta at Cambridge. 31 12 18b

1932 11 11

Death Charles Alder, Stetchworth Dairy; Madingley church window – 32 11 11f
1935 01 19
Guests came to the University Zoological Department to inspect the new Balfour and Newton Libraries. Francis Maitland Balfour, who was killed in the Alps in 1882, started the science of embryology. He became one of the most distinguished biologists of his century, founding the finest zoological laboratories in the world. Prof Alfred Newton gave the University his unique collection of very early ornithological books. The honorary Librarian is Mr Ambrose Harding of Madingley, an authority on birds and leeches 35 01 19a

1935 08 23
Many years ago Madingley windmill was as famous a landmark as those at Bourn or Fulbourn. But in 1909 a great gale blew the mill down and the oak timbers were so badly smashed as to make restoration impossible. Now the Squire of Madingley has purchased an old post-mill at Ellington. There are four sails and the timbers are in an excellent state of preservation. Workmen are engaged in the delicate task of dismantling the mill and foundations are now being dug for it to be erected on the old site at Madingley Hill. 35 08 23

1935 08 24
Madingley Mill notes by Charles French, last tenant – 35 08 24a

1937 12 09
The court heard of a dispute between a Dry Drayton farmer and Elijah Deamer, machinist and steam ploughing contractor of Hardwick. Charles Wilkinson of Madingley said he had been farming 55 years. The custom was for threshers to come round at the beginning of the harvest and do a little. Then they left and worked round. While they were absent the straw was used to thatch the stacks in readiness for the thresher's return. It was not unusual for them to be away two months and some did not thresh until after Christmas. 37 12 09

1938 03 11
When the lake at Madingley Hall was netted the result was not just a matter of kettles of fish but bins full. The ever-growing number of anglers makes such demands on the available fish that annual re-stocking is essential so the Ouse and Cam Fishery Board relies on a number of owners of private lakes who have given permission for some of their fish to be transferred to other waters. The lake at Longstowe Hall has also yielded a large number – once the haul was so heavy that the net broke. Anglers no longer regard fish as something to kill; at one time it was common to see fish left to die on the river bank. Now they are returned at the end of the day 38 02 11b

1939 03 10
Madingley wood future – 39 03 10b

1939 11 24
One of Charlie Everett's proudest possessions was a chair in which the late King Edward once sat. Originally it was in a cottage on the Madingley Hall estate and one day the Prince of Wales, when an undergraduate, sought shelter from a thunderstorm. After a while the woman who lived there, who did not know who he was, offered him an old umbrella, remarking "You can have this one; I wouldn't lend my best one, not to the King of England". A day or two later it was returned with a sovereign and a note of thanks signed 'The Future King of England'. Mr Everett married the woman and the chair always had a place of honour. Born at Duxford, he travelled the country with Joseph Arch, speaking on behalf of the Labourers' Union. He started work for the Corporation as pindar thirty years ago. Regularly during the months when the commons were open for grazing he would get up at sunrise to start his work. 39 11 24

1942 06 26

Col. Henry William Hurrell, J.P, D.L., Alderman of the Cambridgeshire County Council, Vice-Chairman of the Cambridge County Quarter Sessions and Chairman of the Standing Joint Committee. Col. Hurrell was a member of a well-known county family, who for several generations have been connected as landowners and occupiers in the parishes of Newton, Harston, Madingley and Great Shelford. His father, the late Mr. Henry Hurrell, was a former occupant of Madingley Hall, where Col. Harding now resides. Col. Hurrell was born in 1857.

1942 07 17
Youngest Inspector.—At the age of 36 Leonard Arthur Unwin becomes the youngest inspector in the Cambridgeshire County Constabulary. The promotion took place as from the first of this month. Inspector Unwin joined the force in 1927, and was given the rank of sergeant in 1938. He has been stationed at Melbourn. Bourn, Girton and Madingley and is at present out at Newmarket. He is one of the most earnest supporters of sporting activities in the Force, and is a member of the cricket eleven. He is secretary of the recreation club.

1944 05 25
Madingley cemetery dedication, famous service chiefs present – 44 05 25a, 44 05 30a, 44 05 31a

1944 06 02
U.S. Military cemetery dedicated. Memorial Day — the day when Americans pay special honour to their dead— was marked in Cambridgeshire on Tuesday, with a service at the U.S. Military Cemetery (at Madingley). High ranking officers of the American and British Armies, as well as the R.A.F. were present together with leading civic representatives of the Eastern Region and the Town, University and County of Cambridge. A detachment of the British Legion, with their colours, members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the British Red Cross Society, and members of the W.V.S., who have undertaken to provide flowers for the chapel, were also among the large gathering. Centrepiece of the service was a small grass mound, rising from which flew the Stars and Stripes. The Bishop of Ely (Edward Wynn) walked to the mound from the little chapel, followed by the senior officers carrying wreaths. The ceremony opened with an invocation, followed by a scripture reading and a prayer for the fallen. An Order of the Day was read from the Allied commander-in-chief (Gen Eisenhower). During the service either by accident or design three Fortresses flew low over the company. Official and private wreaths were laid and the proceedings came to a close with the National Anthems of America and Britain, the Benediction by the Bishop of Ely and finally "Taps" by two buglers.

1944 12 15
Centenary Celebrations. - On April 1, 1844, the title deeds were signed of Madingley National School by which "all that piece or parcel of land being part of Pigs Close, situate in Madingley" was consigned to the vicar and churchwardens and their successors as a site for a school. Such a school was built in the year 1844, and last week its centenary was celebrated. On Thursday the present scholars invited their parents and the managers to an entertainment and afterwards tea, cigarettes and cakes were handed round. Later fall sat down to a wonderful spread arranged by Mrs. Ruddell, the headmistress. Games followed, and while these were going on the Bishop of Ely came along and joined in. On Saturday the managers invited all the old scholars and all the old teachers, with whom they could get into touch, to a tea and social evening. Some 50 sat down, the youngest of whom was 10 years of age and the oldest 84, with a sprinkling of 70's. Bishop Walsh was present on behalf of the Bishop of Ely.

1945 05 30
Home Guard pay tribute to American airmen at Madingley cemetery – 45 05 30a

1945 05 30
Madingley Road factories – was essential that Sebro should be built at the most convenient point for the surrounding aerodromes. The building, working and running of the factory meant a great deal of

energy and terrific amount of worry; when built was one of a chain of shadow factories; repaired bombers; was built in wrong place from workers' point of view – should have been built near backs and then Trinity could have been used as a hostel, saving long journeys to work. That part of Madingley Road is hardly a beauty spot – letters – 45 05 30b

1947 05 07
Wives and mothers of American Service men who lost their lives in the war are now coming to Cambridge in small numbers on a pilgrimage to Madingley Cemetery, which is the largest of the three in the United Kingdom. Lack of shopping space still keeps the number down to a trickle, but it is expected to grow as the position improves. I am assured that relatives go back happier for having visited the graves and that they are most impressed by what the cemetery staff have done, and how well it is run

1947 05 30
Today, May 30th, day on which America remembers her war dead, there was heard over Cambridge a sound which was once so frequent above the English countryside – the roar of the engines of a Flying Fortress, the sound of which was the requiem of so many of the gallant, gay and generous company of American service men and women, nearly 7,000 of them, who lie at rest among the green and wooded loveliness that forms the slopes of Madingley Hill. Some hundreds of members of the public had made the journey up the hill to join in the ceremony, proof that the affection inspired in our midst by the American troops and Air Forces was of the kind which transcends death

1948 02 25
Temporary closure, Madingley cemetery – 48 02 25 p7

1948 06 18
Cambridge Town Council discussed proposals for the future of the disused factory site at Madingley Road. Ald Wilding said he was under the impression when the works were first erected early in the war that the Ministry had given an assurance of their removal within a reasonable time. He was therefore surprised to see that other buildings were to be erected in their place. Counc. Mrs Rackham spoke of the damage already done to that approach to Cambridge and asked if the buildings were to be used for atomic energy research. If so the Council had already granted 200 acres in Barton road for that purpose

1948 11 10
Members of the Senate are to discuss a report on the future use of Madingley Hall, recently purchased by the university. These proposals include its use as the headquarters of a school of veterinary studies, as the nucleus of a new college within the university, or as a house of residence for graduate and undergraduate members of the university. The Hall with certain adaptations could possibly provide accommodation for some 52 students

1949 03 18
Proposals for further extension of Cambridge boundaries to meet housing needs were disclosed at the Town Council. It is now suggested that Barton, Coton, Madingley, Fen Ditton, Girton, Horningsea, Grantchester and Teversham should be included.

1950 05 31
There was a scene of peace and splendour at the American cemetery on Madingley Hill at a memorial service. It was the seventh anniversary of the founding of the cemetery and the first public ceremony since 1947, when the cemetery was closed for alterations, and re-interments. Reopened to the public in July last year it then passed form the control of the army to the American Battle Monuments Commission.

1950 11 18

An unseen stationary radar 'eye' checked the speed of vehicles on the Madingley Road during the last fortnight. The 'eye' belonged to a 'radar speed meter', an American device which is having its first full-scale operational test in England. A small green van on the roadside house the equipment. The 'eye' was concealed in an ordinary cardboard box on top of the vehicle.

1950 12 05
Cambridge, along with practically every other town and village, presented a traditional Christmas-card picture yesterday with freshly fallen snow decorating the trees and hedges. The roads, however, were not quite so picturesque and once the snow had hardened on them they became very treacherous. Melbourn hill was completely blocked by three lorries across the road. Madingley Hill was another treacherous point, with cars unable to climb it and there were long queues also in the Girton road because they could not get a sufficient hold on a rising road.

1951 05 08
The Whipple Museum of the History of Science was opened by the Vice Chancellor. The collection was presented to the University in 1944 and was stored in boxes in the Fitzwilliam Museum until 1948. It was at first proposed to create a museum in the former Shorts Factory on Madingley Road, but this was rendered unusable after Pye's fire. The present premises in Corn Exchange Street became available in May last year and it has at last been possible to show a large part of the collection. Amongst the guests was Mr Robert S. Whipple, the founder of the collection.

1951 06 02
"One would like Cambridge to have one outlet where people could walk out and get straight into the country" Dr G.M. Trevelyan, Master of Trinity College, told the Council for the Preservation of Rural England. He advocated the desirability of leaving the west side of Cambridge free from development and preserve it as countryside. This was injured to some extent by the erection of a factory on the Madingley Road and though this was partly destroyed during the war there is a danger since it still stands.

1953 02 14
Bad weather delayed the Royal Car when Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother came to Cambridge to visit depots where clothing is being stored for East Coast flood victims. She visited the hangar on Madingley Road in which is stacked some 400 tons of clothing sent by post, road and rail from all parts of the country. There she watched undergraduates unloading lorries, saw the clothing being sorted and then went to the canteen where she accepted a beaker of tea, declining sugar. Then she walked into the open to see the Soya boilers used to provide hot meals. During part of the time in the shed Her Majesty was under the glare of television cameras which were recording the proceedings.

1953 03 12
If you have a few hours to spare any day – including Sundays – you will be welcome at the W.V.S. depot at Madingley Road, Cambridge. There in the huge wartime aircraft hangar a big job still awaits. The surge of generosity following the East Coast floods produced vast quantities of clothing of all kinds and the boxes and bundles are stacked to the roof. They need to be sorted and prepared for despatch. The building is bright and warm and an amplification system is in operation to provide music while you work. A midday meal is provided and a sandwich tea in the afternoon but the reward is to see the lorries leaving every day loaded with neat, clearly-labelled packages which will help to ease the burden of families whose possessions were destroyed in a single night.

1954 10 27 c
There has been some loss of historic buildings in Cambridgeshire, especially the medieval Beaupre Hall near Outwell. Messrs J.W. Green has uncovered the fine medieval timber frame of the Royal Oak public house at Barrington, though they took away the Jacobean bay window which had been added when the hall was divided to give an upper floor. The post mill on Madingley Hill has been taken over by David Robinson and would form a charming centre to his racing establishment. Bourn Mill has been very carefully repaired and braced by the Cambridge Preservation Society

1955 07 16
The windmill at Adventurer's Fen, Wicken stands on a very isolated very isolated spot. The whole direction of the drainage was changed when the fen was brought back into cultivation during the war. It could never again work in that position and may have gone the way of its neighbour in Sedge Fen. But thanks to Rex Wailes and Mr Doran of the Great Ouse River Board it is to be repaired and moved to the entrance of Wicken Sedge Fen where it will be seen by visitors. The work has been entrusted to Mr C.J. Ison of Histon who himself moved the post mill at Madingley to its present site. The cost will be borne by Lord Fairhaven. 55 07 16c

1956 07 17
Distinguished statesmen gathered at the Madingley American Cemetery for the dedication of the outstandingly beautiful chapel. There were messages from the Queen and President Eisenhower whose wife was amongst the guests. Air Chief Marshal 'Bomber' Harris said it marked the centre of the area from which American bombing planes operated during the war. Nearly 90,000 American Servicemen who lost their lives had been commemorated by the chapel. 56 07 17 & a

1957 06 07
The Minister has approved plans to reduce the rate of growth of Cambridge but increase the development of nearby villages like Histon, Girton, Milton and Coton. However no deliberate expansion will take place at Teversham, Hauxton, Madingley or Grantchester. Villages can only preserve their identity and character if they remain physically separate from each other so a Green Belt will be introduced. 57 06 07a

1960 04 22
A suggestion that radioactive waste from the University laboratories was being buried in Madingley Woods has been denied. The University had a store which was locked and shielded with thick walls where radioactive waste was kept until packed and shipped off to Harwell who finally got rid of it. The Department of Radiotherapeutics acted as a clearing house for other departments which used smaller quantities. The greatest care was taken that liquid waste did not get into the public drains and laboratory technicians are instructed on the handling and disposal of such substances. 60 04 22

1960 07 01
Madingley Hall antique furniture on show at Antique sale – 60 07 01c

1961 01 13
Children's Relief International, based in Harvey Road, have already organised a holiday camp for 60 displaced children in Germany. Now they hope to build a large modern house in a village near Cambridge where refugee children from all over Europe would be brought up as a large 'family' under the care of house parents. They would make friends and share some of their delightful facilities with local English children. Madingley would be an ideal spot for such a house. 61 01 13

1961 06 03
With taxation problems and death duties many stately homes are being turned into business premises. Abington Hall was a private residence for a Mr Bertrand who surrendered it to the Army during the War, it is now the British Welding Research Association. Lord Inchcape left Chesterford Park in 1918; it became a Jewish Home for Incurable and is now Fison's Pest Control research centre. The mansion at Shudy Camps houses thousands of chickens having been acquired by Lyddite Chicks in 1949 - 61 05 30d also Madingley Hall, Milton Hall, Wimpole Hall, Babraham Hall belongs to the Agricultural Research Council 61 06 30d

1964 08 01
Madingley Cricket Club, who have bought the old Queens' College pavilion on the Barton Road ground, may cut it in sections and move it that way. Queens' new pavilion, which is a memorial to a former president, Dr J.A. Venn, will be ready for the start of term and the groundsman has already

moved into an adjoining bungalow. It has the most modern facilities in Cambridge with showers, toilets and its own bar. But the planned car park has been left for a later date. 64 08 01a

1965 03 16
Madingley cricket club pavilion – 65 03 16c

1973 11 16
Cambridge University's extra-mural studies board will move out of the city and into new offices at Madingley Hall if a £60,000 plan now being considered by dons is approved. But they are hoping that the scheme would cost the University nothing – a gift of £47,000 is being offered by a trustee of the University of Southern California and the Board of Extra-Mural studies would be required to meet the remaining £13,000 from their balances. Madingley Hall at present houses 55 residents who are either visiting scholars or graduate students of the university.

1974 02 15
The menu at The Three Horse Shoes, at Madingley, is reasonably extensive for so unpretentious a pub. We plumped for a peppered fillet steak with cream (£1.55) and a whole crawfish provencal (£1.95). The latter lived up to its name, the aroma of garlic lingering for several days. The pub follows an interesting policy of charging a flat £2 for all full bottles of wine. The dessert trolley offered a good selection from which we chose a sherry trifle (40p). To sum up dinner is a pleasant experience but at £10.10 for two (there is a cover charge of 10p each) it is not an experience which many people will be able to repeat very often.

1975 10 28
Fire swept through the dry reed thatch of Madingley's Three Horseshoes public house. As firemen ripped wire mesh out of thatch on the building's roof & smoke billowed across the main street, 20 people were kept busy moving tables, stocks of wine, ornaments, pictures, carpeting and personal belongings. By lunchtime the whole of the roof had been affected, most of it exposing the wooden rafters below.

1975 12 20
Veteran village milkman Douglas Childerley remembers winters so cold that roads were too icy to walk upon. And he suspected that the winter of 1975/6 was going to be a harsh one, which is why Douglas, who's been delivering milk in Coton, Hardwick and Madingley for 50 years, decided the time has come to retire. He was born in the Plough public house, Coton, where his father doubled as publican and village milkman before him. As a boy he helped his father carry milk on a yoke with a can at each end. Later he had a bicycle with two three-gallon cans on the front and two more on the handlebars.

1976 03 19
Six primary schools in Cambridgeshire villages may have to close next year. Schools at Wood Ditton, Kirtling, Chippenham, Horseheath, Quy and Madingley have been shortlisted from a number of schools with less than 75 pupils which the county council feels may no longer be viable for educational or economic reasons. Other schools with few pupils include Ashley (30 pupils), Black Horse Drove (40), Castle Camps (55), Dullingham (30) and Stuntney (40)

1976 07 24
Construction work on the long-awaited nine-mile Cambridge northern by-pass has started at last. The first shovelful of earth was dug at Madingley by the recently retired Cambridgeshire County Surveyor, Mr Robert Lacey. The symbolic act ended more than 10 years of controversy over the bypass which is aimed at taking away massive juggernauts from the city's winding narrow streets. It will take up to two years to complete.

1976 12 01

Parents with children at several small village schools have lost their fight to stop them from being closed when Cambridgeshire County Council backed closure because they are no longer a viable proposition. The schools are at Madingley, Ashley, Kirtling, Chippenham, Wood Ditton, Hemingford Abbots and Coldham near Wisbech. Some have fewer than 30 pupils and are housed in outdated buildings. Councillor Margaret Shaw said "Village schools are the heart of our county". But hard decisions must be taken in times of financial difficulty. The Council also agreed that more than 70 places it provides at the Perse and Kimbolton schools should in future be 'assisted; and not free

1977 01 10 c
Most tourists coming to Cambridge do not get a change to the see the places around the city, because they have no transport of their own. Now a freelance journalist has formed a firm called Traditional Pub Evenings with the idea of taking visitors – and locals if they want to go – out to two well-known inns, the Three Horseshoes at Madingley and the Chequers at Fowlmere, for what he calls a traditional night out in a natural environment. The price of £4.95 includes transport by coach to both of the inns supper at one of them and a hostess to supply historical information on the places visited. If it is successful the plan is to build up the service to three or four nights a week in the main tourist season.

1977 02 18
The Three Horseshoes, Madingley is not the place to visit for lunch-time unless you are prepared to pay around £1.50 per head to sample the inn's delicious home-made steak and mushroom pie. The price does not seem unreasonable when you are invited to dig into at least four bowls of mixed salads and then pick up a chunk of bread and butter. Cheaper dishes are available. Drinks are priced at 30p for a pint of beer and 35p for a glass of wine. Coffee with cream is served in the bar at 25p.

1978 04 27
A campaign has been launched to save the 23-pupil Madingley Primary School by turning it into a co-operative. For 39 years the school has been run by the headmistress and the only teacher, Mrs Gwen Ruddle, who retires in July. The County Council thought that would be an appropriate time to close. But the parents say it would kill off the heart of the village and do not like the idea of sending their children to Coton school, 1½ miles away

1978 09 11
Independent schools don't get more independent than tiny Madingley infants' school, which started the first day of term in defiance of the education authorities. The County Council ordered the school to close at the end of July saying that, at £10,000 a year for 23 pupils, it was too expensive. But parents, teacher and pupils walked out and launched a co-operative to run their own school. They thought of hiring the village hall but have now decided to use the wooden cricket pavilion. The old school building goes up for auction next month and parents have launched a campaign to raise money to buy it.

1978 10 19
A group of Madingley parents have won their battle to buy the tiny village school at an auction when they competed against one other buyer, a local property developer. He was greeted by jeers as he left the hall by parents who felt he had pushed the bidding up and wasted no time in telling him so. The building finally made £39,500. Parents are delighted but now face a major problem to find enough money to keep the school going as a co-operative. It will not be fee paying but gifts and grants will be sought.

1978 11 02
When parents succeeded in buying Madingley School in order to keep it open they knew the hard bit was yet to come. The national newspapers have gone now, leaving the 14 children and Mrs McKay, their head, to start the second half of term back in their old school buildings. Some educationalists will be looking to prove pet theories about small schools, politicians will be looking at balance sheets and parents in a similar plight will want to know if they could do the same. The immediate future

presents no problems but the parents have been doing their sums and believe they will have to raise about £100,000 to be sure of the school's long term future.

1979 11 23
Madingley residents have protested against a plan to store ex-German military vehicles in a field next to the American Cemetery. It is already being used for storing about 150 former NATO vehicles and now the owners have applied for planning permission to store the German vehicles temporarily for a friend. They are part of a consignment of 800 being sent out to Saudi Arabia but there is a hold-up at the docks.

1980 12 24
Weird ghosts of Madingley Hall – 80 12 24 & a & c

1981 06 19
The crack of blazing shotguns was head for the last time at Madingley as Gallyons closed their shooting ground after 70 years. Ernie Johnson has spent his entire working life there and so after 44 years of teaching, advising and correcting the technique of sporting gunmen from all walks of life he is facing his first change of job. The site is surrounded by roads and cannot expand to stage big shoots. 81 06 19

1981 11 19
Granary Court used to be a set of buildings belonging to Home Farm, Madingley, but because of modern-day farming they ceased to be used in 1975. As they were an interesting group of 18th century timbered buildings it was decided to retain as much of them as possible by conversion to houses. But only two of the barns were found to be structurally capable of conversion and incorporated into the new courtyard development. 81 11 19

1985 08 29
Two men working down a disused ice store at Madingley Hall had an amazing escape when they were caught up in a terrifying fireball of exploding gas. Paul King was excavating soil twenty feet below the surface when gas leaked from a lamp and ignited on the mantle. There was a real risk of the cracked dome of the store caving in and entombing him but he clambered to the narrow entrance and was hauled out by a colleague, John Fredericks, who had been knocked back four feet by the blast. 85 08 29 & a

1987 05 06
The 143 year-old Madingley School hit the national newspaper headlines in 1978 when it was considered too small and scheduled for closure. But the 200 villagers drew up a plan of action and determined to save it. It has now grown from 10 to 36 pupils. Costs are kept down by teachers taking home less money – the new head earns £10,000 a year compared the normal £15,500 – and parents take it in turn to clean. They raise money through market stalls selling cakes and calendars made by the children. 87 05 06

1987 09 22
More than 100 of 749 United States servicemen killed in a mock invasion before D-Day are buried at the American Cemetery and not in an unmarked mass grave in Devon. This is contrary to a report in The Independent newspaper where a women said she witnessed the disposal of hundreds of GIs in a large pit. The Superintendent of the cemetery at Madingley has a file marked 'Operation Tiger' containing lists of 107 men who died in the operation and whose names are recorded on headstones. A further 293 are listed on the Wall of the Missing. 87 09 22

1988 10 19
Madingley School celebrates 10 years – 88 10 19b

1989 02 18
Madingley windmill restored as house, for sale – 89 02 18

1989 09 07
Madingley saw mill which has been run by Cambridge University for half a century has closed. It was involved in general forestry work such as tree surgery, cutting timber and selling logs to the colleges and general public. The equipment is auctioned in the wood yard. Head forester, Peter Oakes, responsible for 400 acres of university estates for the past five years, has set up his own business in the village and hopes to do contract work for the university 89 09 07a

1990 11 31
Madingley hall ghost in new book – 90 11 31a